



## **EV Program for Japan – Clarification of Specified Product Requirements**

December 30, 2005

Within all quality management systems opportunities for continuous improvement exist and when identified must be addressed. During the recent plant reviews conducted by the joint Government of Japan and USDA audit teams; AMS was provided with specific areas that require immediate attention. Please review the following issues and as necessary revise your Quality System Assessment, Export Verification (QSA/EV) for Japan program.

### **1. QSA/EV for Japan Program Manuals**

Plants must provide FSIS plant official's access to their approved QSA/EV Program for Japan manual. Access to the manual may be provided in either electronic or a hard copy format. If the plant manual is maintained as a hard copy document, one extra copy must be available for review.

### **2. Canadian Cattle with Birthdates Verified by CFIA**

Suppliers of Canadian age-verified cattle based solely on CFIA verified birth dates must be included on the plant's approved suppliers listing.

### **3. Removal of SRM's**

Removal of the spinal cord must be conducted prior to the final FSIS inspection station.

Vertebral columns from carcasses of cattle 20 months of age or younger must be removed during fabrication of product destined for Japan. The removal of the vertebral columns must be conducted in the same manner as the plant's current documented procedures for removal of the vertebral columns from carcasses of cattle 30 months of age and older. Plants must include this procedure in their QSA/EV for Japan program.

### **4. Carcasses from Cattle 30 months of age or older**

Carcasses from cattle aged 30 months or older must be segregated from carcasses destined for the QSA/EV for Japan program.

### **5. Offal – Hygienic removal of cheek meat**

If a plant saves cheek meat for export to Japan, the cheek meat must be removed from the head separate from other head meat and tissues. The cheek meat must not be commingled with head meat and tissues at any time.

*Jim 1/6/06*